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RUEHCD/AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ PRIORITY 0075
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY 0082
RULSDMK/DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS LAGOS 000050

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - HANDLE ACCORDINGLY
SIPDIS

STATE PASS FAA FOR ACONLEY,
TRANSPORTATION FOR FAA; TRANSPORTATION FOR KEVIN SAMPLE;
DAKAR PLEASE PASS TO FAA REP ED JONES; ROME PLEASE PASS TO
TSA REP JOHN HALINSKI

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [EAIR](#) [EINV](#) [PREL](#) [NI](#)
SUBJECT: AVIATION REGULATOR REQUESTS DOT, FAA TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE

11. (U) Summary: Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA)
Director General (DG) Harold Demuren, in a December 14, 2006
meeting with DOT official Kevin Sample, requested assistance
in organizing meetings with DOT and FAA in Washington on
January 24. Demuren also requested a technical assessment
that would precede an international aviation safety
assessment (IASA). Sample pledged DOT support for continued
aviation reform. End summary.

NCAA Requests DOT Support

12. (U) In a December 14 meeting with Department of
Transportation Senior Advisor Kevin Sample, Nigerian Civil
Aviation Authority (NCAA) Director General Harold Demuren
requested DOT assistance organizing meetings with DOT and FAA
in Washington in January. Demuren also requested a technical
assessment that would precede an international aviation
safety assessment (IASA). Specifically, he requested
assistance in the areas of airport and airspace
certification, weather forecasting, and search and rescue.

13. (SBU) Demuren, Sample, and NCAA Director, Operations and
Training Captain Kiddie Dare discussed NCAA's autonomy under
the new civil aviation legislation. Under the new law, the
NCAA would be autonomous from the Ministry of Aviation. The
Director General would be appointed by the President and
approved by the National Assembly to serve a term of five
years. Demuren acknowledged he had presidential backing for a
five-year appointment, though he was concerned that his
appointment would be jeopardized by political wrangling
leading up to the April presidential election. Demuren told
Econoff on January 16 that his appointment as DG of NCAA had
been confirmed by the National Assembly.

World Bank Support for Reform

14. (SBU) Sample told Demuren and Dare he held discussions
with World Bank officials regarding financing reform in
Nigeria's aviation sector. Funds would cover reorganization,
including "rightsizing" and retraining staff of NCAA and the

Nigerian Aviation Management Agency (NAMA). Demuren expressed interest in meeting with World Bank staff in Washington in January to discuss these plans.

Comment

¶5. (SBU) Comment: Demuren's reappointment to a five-year term as DG of a newly-autonomous NCAA may signal continuity of reform of Nigeria's accident-plagued aviation sector. While the newly-passed civil aviation legislation ostensibly protects the regulatory body from political manipulation, the extent to which the NCAA will benefit from this legislation will depend on adequate funding and the self-restraint of Nigerian officials.

¶6. (U) Kevin Sample cleared this cable.
BROWNE